

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 027490
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:TMARTIN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----127760 020154Z /62

O 020127Z FEB 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 027490

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 03192 SENT ACTION 01 FEB 78

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 03192

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, PCAT, MASS, LY, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT SALE TO LIBYA

REF: STATE 24253

1. IN PRIVATE LUNCHEON CONVERSATIONS ON JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FRENCH TRANSALL SALES TO LIBYA WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU AND DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR PAGNIEZ RESPECTIVELY. NOTING OUR OPPOSITION TO SUCH SALES TO LIBYA AND THAT WE HAD TURNED DOWN AN ITALIAN REQUEST TO SELL G-222 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO LIBYA, HE ASKED FOR COMMENT ON THE ITALIAN CLAIM

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THAT THE FRENCH WERE PREPARED TO SELL TRANSALLS IF THE US DID NOT APPROVE THE ITALIAN SALE. BOTH SOUTOU AND PAGNIEZ SAID THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBLE SALE, BUT UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND INFORM US.

2. ALSO ON FEBRUARY 1 WE MADE A MORE FORMAL DEMARCHE

TO THE QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA, TRISTAN
D'ALBIS. D'ALBIS SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THE LIBYANS
HAD MADE A MORE OR LESS PRELIMINARY ENQUIRY INTO THE
POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING TRANSALLS. HE SAID THAT HE
KNEW THAT NO DECISION TO SELL THE PLANES HAD BEEN
MADE BUT BEYOND THAT HE WAS UNINFORMED. HE UNDERTOOK
TO OBTAIN A REPLY TO OUR DEMARCHE.

3. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO ROME AND TRIPOLI.
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, DEMARCHE, MILITARY SALES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE027490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:TMARTIN
Enclosure: REPEATS 78 PARIS 3192
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780002-0294
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802100/aaaadgtp.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9dc4cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 24253
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3428326
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT SALE TO LIBYA
TAGS: PEPR, PCAT, MASS, LY, FR, US, (D'ALBIS, TRISTAN)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9dc4cdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014